2. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein the exterior surface of at least one article is visible within the species identification mark.

3. A set of articles according to claim 2 wherein the exterior surface visible within the species identification mark of at least one article is devoid of surface irregularities.

4. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein the laser engraved identification mark of at least one article has a color that is different than the color of the polymer coating.

6. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein the polymer coating of at least one article has a color presenting the genus identification mark.

7. A set of articles according to claim 6 wherein at least one article includes a container and a product in the container, and wherein the color of the polymer coating of the at least one article matches the color of the product.

8. A set of articles according to claim 7 wherein the product is a dental sealant or a dental restorative material.

9. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein at least one article is a product container having a polymeric body and a chamber within the body.

10. A set of articles according to claim 9 wherein the product container includes a flowable material within the chamber.

11. A set of articles according to claim 10 wherein the material is a dental sealant or a dental restorative material.

12. A set of articles according to claim 11 wherein the color of the polymer coating matches the color of the dental material.

13. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein at least one article also includes a laser engraved identification mark that is spaced apart from the region of the exterior surface and is more difficult to see than the laser engraved identification mark formed within the certain region.

14. A set of articles according to claim 13 wherein the laser engraved identification mark that is spaced apart from the region of the exterior surface includes information selected from a group consisting of shelf life data, expiration data, date of manufacture, serial number, batch code data and lot code data.

15. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein at least one article includes a container and a product in the container.

16. A set of articles according to claim 1 wherein at least one article is an orthodontic band.

17. A method of marking a set of articles comprising the acts of:

selecting a polymer coating having a color that contrasts with the color of an exterior surface of each article;

applying the coating to a certain region of the exterior surface of each article; and

directing a laser beam toward the coating with sufficient power to cause at least a portion of the coating to undergo a chemical reaction and create an identification mark, wherein the act of directing the laser beam toward the coating creates a species mark, and wherein the act of applying the coating to the exterior surface of the article includes the act of creating a genus mark that is distinct from the species mark.

18. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating causes at least some of the coating to volatilize.

19. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 18 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating does not cause any surface irregularity on the exterior surface of at least one article.

20. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 18 wherein at least one article comprises a container made of a polymeric material and wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating does not substantially soften the exterior surface of the container.

21. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating causes at least some of the coating to polymerize.

22. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating does not cause any substantial amount of surface irregularities on the exterior surface of the article.

23. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating causes at least some of the coating to change color.

24. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 23 wherein the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating does not cause any substantial amount of surface irregularities on the exterior surface of at least one article.

26. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of creating a genus mark includes the act of selecting a color of the polymer coating.

27. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein at least one article comprises a container and a product in the container, and wherein the act of selecting a polymer coating includes the act of selecting a polymer coating that has a color matching the color of the product in the container.

28. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 27 wherein the product is a dental sealant or dental restorative material.

29. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 and including the act of directing the laser beam toward at least one article at a location spaced from the coating in order to create another identification mark.

30. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 29 wherein the act of directing the laser beam toward at least one article at a location spaced from the coating creates an identification mark that is more difficult to see than the identification mark that is created by the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating.

31. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein at least one article is an orthodontic band.